

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05526 211653Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 /012 W
----- 082493 /43
P 211610Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3478

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 5526

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: BODYGUARD FOR AMBASSADOR

REFERENCE: A. STATE 304445 B. KINGSTON 5358

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL A, QUESTION 2(A) THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REPEAT SPECIFIC THREAT AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION (JAMAICA IS IN STATE OF EMERGENCY AT PRESENT TIME), EXTREMELY HIGH RATE OF VIOLENT CRIME (INCLUDING ASSASSINATION OF PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR), IT IS STRONGLY FELT THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD HAVE PERSONAL BODYGUARD PROTECTION. AT PRESENT TIME, RESIDENCE HAS ADEQUATE GUARD COVERAGE BUT NO PERSONAL PROTECTION IS PROVIDED, ON A STEADY BASIS, WHEN HE IS AWAY FROM EMBASSY AND/OR RESIDENCE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL A, QUESTION 2(B), JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMALLY REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A BODYGUARD BUT REPLIED THAT SECURITY FORCES WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICE - ESPECIALLY IF OTHER MISSIONS MADE SIMILAR REQUESTS. POST IS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF OBTAINING A WEAPONS LICENCE FOR FSLE CHAUFFEUR AND WILL TRAIN HIM IN PROPER USE AND SAFE-HANDLING; HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT DEEMED SUFFICIENT PROTECTION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL A, QUESTION 2(C);

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(1) BODYGUARD WOULD BE OBTAINED FROM CARIBBEAN PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CURRENTLY PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM'S RESIDENCES) AND WILL BE ARMED WITH .38 CALIBRE REVOLVER AND SMALL BATON (READILY CONCEALABLE).

(2) AS A GENERAL RULE BODYGUARD WOULD RIDE IN COM VEHICLE, IN FRONT "SHOTGUN" SEAT.

(3) BODYGUARD WOULD ACCOMPANY COM ON ALL TRAVEL, WHILE HE IS ON ISLAND, ON PORTAL - TO PORTAL BASIS. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR, BODYGUARD WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO CHARGE.

4. POLICE HAVE ADVISED THAT RADIO CANNOT BE PROVIDED TO ANYONE WHO IS NOT MEMBER OF SECURITY FORCES. BODYGUARD WOULD HOWEVER, HAVE RADIO CONTACT WITH EMBASSY.

5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, DUTIES, LIMITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE GIVEN BODYGUARD BY RSO.

6. BODYGUARD WOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY POLICE BY VIRTUE OF FACT THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF A PROTECTIVE SERVICE, LICENCED TO CARRY A WEAPON, AND RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CLIENT. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY "OFFICIAL AUTHORITY," HE WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE A CITIZEN'S ARREST - AS WOULD ANY OTHER JAMAICAN. IN ADDITION, SHOULD HE BE REQUIRED TO USE HIS WEAPON WHILE ACTING AS A BODYGUARD, HE WOULD BE TOTALLY WITHIN LIMITS OF LAW AND FULLY COVERED.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST05526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760468-0733
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761225/aaaaavkl.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 304445
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BODYGUARD FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006